

**CLAIMS**

1. A spherical absorption pigment, which comprises:
  - a component A comprising spherical particles having a particle size of 1 – 100 nm which are coated with one or more color-providing layers and, over the color-providing layer(s), a layer of SiO<sub>2</sub>and
  - a component B comprising spherical particles having a particle size of 0.5 – 50  $\mu$ m which are coated with one or more color-providing layers and, over the color-providing layer(s), a layer of SiO<sub>2</sub>.
2. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 1, wherein the spherical particles for at least one of component A and component B are SiO<sub>2</sub> beads, TiO<sub>2</sub> beads, nanoscale metal particles, polymer beads, glass beads and/or hollow glass beads.
3. A spherical absorption pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the spherical particles for both component A and component B are SiO<sub>2</sub> beads.
4. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 1, wherein at least one color-providing layer for at least one of component A and component B is a layer of a metal oxide, metal sulfide, metal nitride, metal oxynitride, metal or mixture thereof.
5. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 4, wherein at least one color-providing layer is TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, SnO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, BiOCl, Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, FeO(OH), Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>,

TiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>4</sub>[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>]<sub>3</sub>, a titanium sub-oxide, a titanium oxynitride, pseudobrookite, titanium nitride, CoO, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, VO<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, NiO, CoAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, BiVO<sub>4</sub>, Ce<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, MoS<sub>2</sub>, Al, Fe, Cr, As, Au, Pt, Pd or mixture thereof.

6. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 1, wherein component A and/or component B comprises one, two, three, four, five or seven color-providing layers.

7. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 4, wherein component A and/or component B comprises one, two, three, four, five or seven color-providing layers.

8. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 5, wherein component A and/or component B comprises one, two, three, four, five or seven color-providing layers.

9. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 6, wherein component A and/or component B comprises one, two or three color-providing layers.

10. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 1, wherein the color-providing layer(s) in component A and component B are each one or more metal-oxide layers.

11. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 10, wherein the metal oxide layers are TiO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, FeO(OH), an iron titanate, pseudobrookite or a mixture thereof.

12. A spherical absorption pigment of claim 1, wherein color-providing layer(s) for component A and component B are the same.

13. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 1, wherein component A and component B are mixed in a weight ratio of from 1:10 to 10:1.

14. A spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of component A and component B additionally has an outer protective layer in order to increase the light, temperature and/or weather stability.

15. A process for the preparation of a spherical absorption pigment according to Claim 1, which comprises mixing the spherical particles of components A and B with one another in suspension, and coating the spherical particles by wet-chemical processes by hydrolytic decomposition of metal salts in aqueous and/or organic solvents and/or by means of CVD and/or PVD processes or by reduction from an aqueous solution of metal salts.

16. A paint, coating, printing ink, security printing ink, plastic, ceramic material, glass, tracer, or cosmetic composition comprising a spherical absorption pigment of claim 1.

17. A cosmetic composition comprising a spherical absorption pigment of claim 1.

18. A dry pigment composition comprising a spherical absorption pigment of claim 1.